

REMARKS

(A) STATUS OF THE APPLICATION

(I) DISPOSITION OF CLAIMS

- (i) Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, and 10-17 are pending in the application.
- (ii) Claims 3-4, 6-7, and 9 have been canceled.
- (iii) Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, and 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

(II) APPLICANTS' ACTION

- (i) Applicants have amended Claims 1, 10, and 14. Particularly, the term "automotive body parts" has been deleted from said claims.
- (ii) Applicants respond to the above rejections.

(B) RESPONSE TO REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(A)

(I) U.S. PATENT NO. 4,315,790 TO RATTEE, ET AL. -CLAIMS 1, 2, 5, 8, & 10-17

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, and 10-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent 4,315,790 to Rattee, *et al.* (*hereinafter* "Rattee").

Examiner's Rejection

In the Office Action the Examiner states that Rattee teaches applying a composition to a fabric or other flexible substrates. The composition is applied to a supporting substrate by screen printing. Example 10 is an example of the composition being directly applied to the supporting substrate with screen printing. The supporting substrate can be a plastic film, metal foil or paper.

Rattee does not directly teach that the composition is applied to an automotive body or body part but the fabric of Rattee could be part of an automobile, such as fabric made from polyester or nylon (i.e., plastics) to be used in car seats.

Applicants' Response

To expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 10, and 14 to delete the term "automotive body parts" as the substrate. This amendment obviates the Examiner's interpretation that "'body part' is any part of an automobile , such as fabric made from polyester or nylon (i.e. plastics) such as plastic car seats". Clearly the amended claims are directed to the coating of automotive bodies not fabrics made of polyester or nylon that can be made into seats.

One of the key points of Applicants invention is the application of the coating to the backing foil by screen printing which is not taught by Rattee. Screen printing of the curable coating is used to form a coating layer of a very uniform thickness on the backing foil that can be cured at an uniform rate to form a coating having a uniform thickness and excellent smoothness and gloss. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of Rattee that screen printing is taught by Rattee for the application of the coating. See, Rattee, Example 1, col. 8, lines 3-4, "The dried coating is then screen printed with an ink" and the ink is described as a red pigment in a mixture of solvents, clearly not a curable coating as used in Applicants' process. See also, Rattee, Example 2, col. 8, lines 36-37, "It is then printed with by screen printing with an ink" which also is described as carbon black pigment in a solvent mixture, clearly not a coating. In Examples 1 and 2, the coating is applied to a paper substrate by conventional means and NOT by screen printing which is a key part of Applicants' invention. There is no disclosure in Rattee for the application of a curable coating to the backing foil by screen printing. Screen printing is only taught by Rattee for the application of an ink layer which is NOT a curable coating.

The Examiner pointed to Example 10 of Rattee as showing that a coating composition can be applied to a supporting substrate by screen printing. Applicants' respectfully disagree since screen printing is not even mentioned by Rattee in Example 10. In Example 10, a coating is applied to a paper substrate by conventional means and then an ink consisting of orange pigment and a solvent mixture is applied to the coated paper substrate by "gravure printing" which is NOT screen printing and then printed substrate is further coated by conventional means.

Clearly, there is no teaching or suggestion that a curable coating can be applied to a backing foil by screen printing which is Applicants' invention.

The Examiner points to curing of the coating as taught by Rattee "Transfer conditions most conveniently involve bringing the decoration material into contact with the textile fabric so that the decorated surface and the textile are in contact and heating by passing the composite through heated calendar rollers, pressing between heated plates as in a garment press, hand ironing or holding in contact against a heated drum by means of a stretched blanket." (see Rattee, col. 6, line 65—col. 7, line 3). Obviously, these techniques are used to cure coated fabrics and none of these techniques could be used to cure an automotive body having a coating thereon applied by Applicants' novel process. The curing conditions are set forth in Claim 1, step (c) of Applicants' process.

Section 2142 of the MPEP indicates that a *prima facie* case of obviousness is established only when:

- (1) all of the claim limitations are either taught, or suggested by the cited prior art;
- (2) there is some suggestion or motivation to modify or combine the cited prior art references; AND
- (3) there is a reasonable expectation of successfully producing the claimed invention via such a combination.

Because Rattee neither discloses all claim limitations of the present claims (See, discussion *supra*), nor suggests or motivates a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine information (even if such information were present in Rattee) to arrive at the invention of the present claims (See, discussion *supra*), we respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to overcome her burden to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot and that a complete response has been made to the Office Action mailed on March 13, 2007.

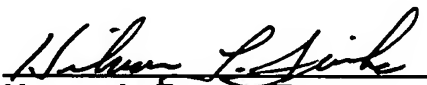
Therefore, Applicants believe that the application stands in condition for allowance with withdrawal of all grounds of rejection. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has questions regarding the application or the contents of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Should there be a fee due which is not accounted for, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1928.

Respectfully Submitted,

BY:

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HILMAR L. FRICKE, ESQUIRE
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS
REGISTRATION NO.: 22,384
PHONE: 302-984-6058
FAX: 302-658-1192